

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend the claims to read as follows.

1. *Currently amended.* A hair cosmetic composition comprising a fixative effective amount of xanthan gum, wherein the composition has a high humidity curl retention of at least about 80%, and wherein the xanthan gum has been heat treated at a moisture content of less than about 25%, a temperature of at least about 60°C for at least about 30 minutes.
2. *Currently cancelled.*
3. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim 1 2, wherein the temperature is at least 100°C.
4. *Original.* The composition of claim 3, wherein the temperature is at least 105°C.
5. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim 1 2, wherein the moisture content is less than about 8%.
6. *Original.* The composition of claim 3, wherein the moisture content is less than about 1%.
7. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim 1 2, wherein the heat treatment is for at least about one hour.
8. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim 7 3, wherein the heat treatment is for at least about 2.5 hours.
9. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim 1 2, wherein the heat treatment is at a moisture of less than about 1% and the temperature is at least about 105°C for at least about 2.5 hours.
10. *Original.* The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of a spray, a mousse, a hair lotion, a cream, a pomade, and a gel.
11. *Original.* The composition of claim 10, wherein the composition is a gel.
12. *Previously amended.* The composition of claim 1 characterized by a viscosity of at least about 8000 cps, and a turbidity of no more than about 100 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units).
13. *Original.* The composition of claim 1, further comprising a second fixative

polymer.

14. *Previously amended.* The composition of claim 13 wherein the second fixative polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylates copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylates/butylaminoethyl methacrylate copolymer, acrylates/octylacrylamide copolymer, VA/crotonates/vinyl Neodecanoate copolymer, poly(N-vinyl acetamide), poly(N-vinyl formamide), polyurethane, corn starch modified, sodium polystyrene sulfonate, polyquaternium-4, polyquaternium-10 and polyurethane/acrylates copolymer.
15. *Currently cancelled.*
16. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim ~~46~~ 11 further comprising a second fixative polymer.
17. *Currently amended.* The composition of claim ~~47~~ 16 wherein the second fixative polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylates copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylates/butylaminoethyl methacrylate copolymer, acrylates/octylacrylamide copolymer, VA/crotonates/vinyl Neodecanoate copolymer, poly(N-vinyl acetamide), poly(N-vinyl formamide), polyurethane, corn starch modified, sodium polystyrene sulfonate, polyquaternium-4, polyquaternium-10 and polyurethane/acrylates copolymer.
18. *Original.* A method of preparing the composition of claim 1, comprising dispersing the xanthan gum in water; and mixing in other hair cosmetic components.
19. *Currently cancelled.*
20. *Original.* A method of preparing the composition of claim 17 comprising dispersing the xanthan gum in water; and mixing in other hair cosmetic components.
21. *Original.* A method of providing fixative properties to the hair comprising applying the composition of claim 1.
22. *Original.* A method of providing curl retention under high humidity conditions comprising applying the composition of claim 1.
23. *Previously added.* The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a surfactant-free hair mousse.

24. *Currently amended.* A hair cosmetic composition, wherein the fixative consists essentially of a xanthan gum and the high humidity curl retention is at least about 80%, and wherein the xanthan gum has been heat treated at a moisture content of less than about 25%, a temperature of at least about 60°C for at least about 30 minutes.

C 25. *Previously added.* The composition of claim 24, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of a spray, a mousse, a hair lotion, a cream, a pomade, and a gel.

26. *Previously added.* The composition of claim 25, wherein the composition is a gel.

27. *Previously added and amended.* The composition of claim 24 characterized by a viscosity of at least about 8000 cps, and a turbidity of no more than about 100 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units).

28. *Previously added.* The composition of claim 24, wherein the composition is a surfactant-free hair mousse.

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